



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) four applications seeking Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding. These important projects advance critical state and national economic development and infrastructure objectives, and will address multimodal needs in regions across the State—from rural areas in Southern Maryland to urban centers like Baltimore City.

The four projects include the following:

MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project:

MDOT SHA is seeking a grant to fulfill an initiative to address critical safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life issues in the rural Southern Maryland region. Currently, MD 5 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average. Additionally, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Naval Air Station Webster Field, and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are all located near the project area. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty personnel, civilians, and contractors who all rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington, DC and Maryland in the event of a state or national emergency. This application will provide the funding to address critical needs and represents a strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Air Station, and other federal, state, and local partners.

MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), ReBUILD and ReCONNECT Penn

Station Project: MDOT MTA is seeking grant funding to provide multimodal infrastructure investments around Penn Station in the heart of Baltimore City. These investments will significantly improve mobility, safety, and connectivity to this regional intermodal transportation hub. The project also complements Amtrak and Penn Station Partners' \$140-million redevelopment of the historic Penn Station headhouse building, construction of a new terminal building, and adjacent commercial development. The area around Penn Station is expected to see increasing levels of economic growth as the station redevelopment advances, and the need for safe, fast, and reliable intermodal connections is critical.

MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA), *Resiliency and Flood Mitigation*

Improvements at Dundalk Marine Terminal: MDOT MPA is seeking grant funding to provide resiliency and flood mitigation improvements at the Dundalk Marine Terminal (DMT). The project is part of a larger, long-term resiliency program at MDOT MPA's terminals. By making improvements to the DMT, the project will reduce the risk of cargo losses due to storm surge and rainfall flooding at the Port of Baltimore's largest and most versatile general cargo facility. The project will create a more resilient marine terminal and make the movement of goods more efficient.

MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), *Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project:* MDOT MTA, in partnership with Charles and Prince George's Counties, is seeking planning grant funding to complete a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project. Providing a separate, high-capacity transit line in this rapidly-growing corridor will be transformative to the greater Washington, DC region, and completing the DEIS is an important first step in ultimately delivering this project.

I strongly support these grant applications and urge you to award the requested BUILD funds to these vital, transformative projects. Thank you for your time and consideration of these important grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan", is written over the printed name.

Larry Hogan
Governor

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical, rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria, providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040, causing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

We urge you to give this project favorable consideration and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Steny H. Hoyer

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone

David Trone
Member of Congress



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 29
CALVERT AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The District 29 State Delegation writes to offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

This much needed and long awaited *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

We urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".
Senator Jack BaileyA handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Clark".
Delegate Jerry ClarkA handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Crosby".
Delegate Brian CrosbyA handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Morgan".
Delegate Matt Morgan

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC

Re: MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project (MD 5, MD 246, MD 471 Intersection Complex)

Dear Secretary Chao:

Summary. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are pleased to offer their full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. That improvement focuses on freeing a critical intersection complex in this County comprised of three MDOT/SHA roadways from the unnecessary congestion caused by missing dedicated turn lanes and a deteriorated, narrow bridge. St. Mary's County is a rural county with two large U. S. Navy installations, multiple small businesses producing products supporting work at the base as well as for civilian consumption along with major agricultural, aquaculture production and a growing as a tourist destination, all straining the roadway network.

With no rail or interstate highways this county depends on those state-maintained arterials to tie the county together, to get product to market and to support everyday life. This intersection complex of three SHA maintained roads is a critical node in that arterial network. As a result, by accomplishing that project and freeing the intersection and allowing the roadways to operate at their true capacity, SHA will deliver on the primary BUILD selection criteria by providing significant improvements to safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

Detail. Through strategic widening, the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will separate through and turn lanes, provide bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge on MD 5 over the St. Mary's River between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing continuing failing levels of service along MD 5.

St. Mary's County is proud to have the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. That growth has been recently documented in the April 2019 issue of Forbes article stating that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-

April 7, 2020

tech jobs in its local economy in the country.”¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of those several military installations in Southern Maryland and University of Maryland research facilities. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project, all tied together by this intersection complex. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

Economic development along the Great Mills and MD 5 corridors is constrained by traffic tailbacks at the subject intersection complex. Companies located in St. Mary's County are growing and looking for industrial land. Meanwhile, due to the growing economy, companies outside of the County want to be here. Despite the area having coveted industrially zoned land, these potential new businesses turn away from the Great Mills project area, because a) they are concerned about their employees' quality of life, and b) the land is difficult to develop due to road and traffic configurations. By removing the capacity constraint at the intersection with the project, the roadways could operate at full capacity and land zoned industrial could be developed more fully.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County offer their full support behind this critical project and investment in MDOT's capital program to advance this regionally significant rural project. We are happy that MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the citizens of St. Mary's County are in accord on the vital importance of this project to increase safety, further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/JD/sf

T:/ALL/Consent/2020/098

Cc: Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
John Deatrick, Director, DPWT

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Todd B. Morgan



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

April 22, 2020

Jeff Stockdale
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Dr.
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project (MD 5, MD 246, MD 471 Intersection Complex)

Dear Mr. Stockdale:

On Behalf of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), I offer our support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. That improvement focuses on freeing a critical intersection complex in this County comprised of three MDOT/SHA roadways from the unnecessary congestion caused by missing dedicated turn lanes and a deteriorated, narrow bridge. St. Mary's County is a rural county with two large U. S. Navy installations, multiple small businesses producing products supporting work at the base as well as for civilian consumption along with major agricultural, aquaculture production and a growing as a tourist destination, all straining the roadway network.

With no rail or interstate highways this county depends on those state-maintained arterials to tie the county together, to get product to market and to support everyday life. This intersection complex of three SHA maintained roads is a critical node in that arterial network. As a result, by accomplishing that project and freeing the intersection and allowing the roadways to operate at their true capacity, SHA will deliver on the primary BUILD selection criteria by providing significant improvements to safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

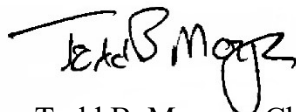
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St. Mary's County is proud to have the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. That growth has been recently documented in the April 2019 issue of Forbes article stating that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of those several military installations in Southern Maryland and University of Maryland research facilities. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project, all tied together by this intersection complex. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

Economic development along the Great Mills and MD 5 corridors is constrained by traffic tailbacks at the subject intersection complex. Companies located in St. Mary's County are growing and looking for industrial land. Meanwhile, due to the growing economy, companies outside of the County want to be here. Despite the area having coveted industrially zoned land, these potential new businesses turn away from the Great Mills project area, because a) they are concerned about their employees' quality of life, and b) the land is difficult to develop due to road and traffic configurations. By removing the capacity constraint at the intersection with the project, the roadways could operate at full capacity and land zoned industrial could be developed more fully.

The MPO supports this critical project and investment in MDOT's capital program to advance this regionally significant rural project. We are happy that MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the citizens of St. Mary's County are in accord on the vital importance of this project to increase safety, further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Todd B. Morgan, Chair
Metropolitan Planning Organization



Commissioners of Leonardtown

22670 Washington Street
P. O. Box 1, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

301-475-9791 • FAX 301-475-5350
leonardtown.somd.com

DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. McKAY
Town Administrator

April 15, 2020

Secretary Greg Slater
Maryland Dept. of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Slater:

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are pleased to support the proposed improvements on MD Route 5 at MD Route 246 in Great Mills. This project is extremely important to Leonardtown as well as the rest of St. Mary's County. Naval Air Station Patuxent River remains the largest employer in St. Mary's County by far. Access to the base for the employees is imperative. The growth Leonardtown is experiencing is tied very closely to the facility and as such accessibility is critical to our economy as well as quality of life for our residents.

We greatly appreciate the improvements currently underway on Rt. 5 through Leonardtown and support the needed improvements in Great Mills as well. Thank you for your consideration in moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Burris
Mayor

COUNCIL: TYLER ALT HAYDEN T. HAMMETT
CHRISTY HOLLANDER J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY IV MARY MADAY SLADE

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

We write to offer the full support of the Maryland Transportation Commission for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 27 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington, D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a state or national emergency.

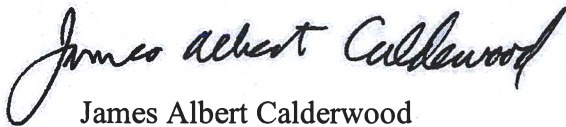
We urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in the State of Maryland's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

The Honorable Elaine Chao

Page Two



James Albert Calderwood
Chairman




Camillo DiCamillo
Ex-Officio Member



Thomas Hampton
Member



Natasha Iheme
Member



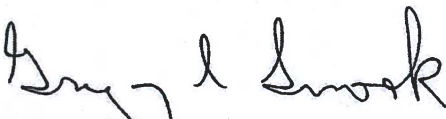
Jennifer Hill Leineweber
Member



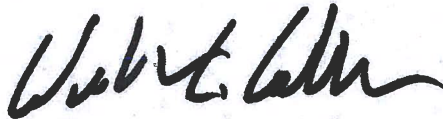
Lisa Weimin Liu
Member



Ben Neil
Member



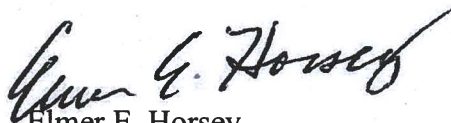
Gregory I. Snook
Ex-Officio Member



William Callahan
Ex-Officio Member



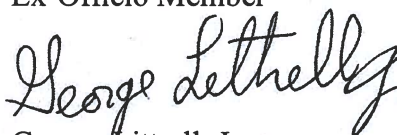
Debra Farrar-Dyke
Member



Elmer E. Horsey
Member




Barbara Richman Kahn
Ex-Officio Member



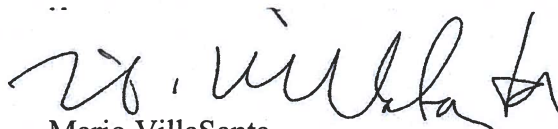
George Littrell, Jr.
Member



Michael J. Moore
Member



Gary Simpson
Ex-Officio Member



Mario VillaSanta
Ex-Officio Member



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION
22268 CEDAR POINT ROAD
PATUXENT RIVER, MD 20670-1154

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Gregory Slater
Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS) fully supports the efforts for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. The project site is adjacent to NAS Patuxent River, which employs over 21,000 personnel who commute daily through this route. NAS Patuxent River is the premier Research, Development, Testing and Acquisition base for all Navy and Marine Corps aircraft.

The MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will drastically speed the flow through of traffic on this critical transportation corridor. MD 5 is part of Maryland's technology corridor and the only state road leading directly to Webster Outlying Landing Field (OLF), the home of our unmanned aerial systems test activities. For the past several years, NAS Patuxent River has been working closely with various stakeholders, including MDOT, on a Regional Transportation Program aimed at improving the transportation network to alleviate the traffic situation, which is a large part of urban encroachment, a top encroachment issue for the base.

The MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project complements planned NAS Patuxent River efforts to reduce and alleviate traffic at NAS Patuxent River and associated Webster OLF. One of those efforts is a project that would reconstruct NAS Patuxent River's Gate 2, located at the other end of Great Mills Road from the MD 5 project, in order to improve traffic flow at the MD 235 intersection and improve security measures. We are also taking action to increase carpool, vanpool, public transportation and bicycle use to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles that travel to the base every day.

I value your advocacy and fully support your pursuit of the BUILD grant for such an important and regionally significant rural project. Improving the MD 5 Great Mills intersection is very much in the interests of NAS Patuxent River. The BUILD application reflects the strong partnership among MDOT, SHA, St. Mary's County, NAS Patuxent River, federal, state, and local partners to increase safety, economic opportunity and quality of life for thousands of Military and Civilian personnel who live and work at NAS Patuxent River; and who are building and sustaining the technologically superior aircraft and Air Combat Systems that will enable victory over a near peer adversary one day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Cox", is positioned above the typed name.

C. A. COX
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland, a product of the high concentration of military installations in the region. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and our over 4,500 business members and federated partners thank you for your work and urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Christine Ross
President & CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Patuxent Partnership, with over 290 member companies and 6,000 network associates, offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes

Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. It is three miles east of the project area; and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations alone employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of them rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency, MD 5 is a critical route to safety. I urge you to approve this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and other federal, state, and local partners, to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Marie Green
Executive Director
The Patuxent Partnership

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



April 24, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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I can personally attest to the matters set forth in the paragraph above the corporate offices of the Cherry Cove Group, of which entity I am the CEO, are located along Maryland Route 246, and I and the other corporate employees of Cherry Cove experience the unprecedented traffic congestion along this corridor on a daily basis. Every afternoon starting at 3:30, it is not uncommon for it to take more than 20 minutes to travel from our offices to Maryland Route 5, a distance of approximately 0.7 miles. Further, The Cherry Cove Group is the owner and developer of several existing, newly constructed and proposed commercial projects also located along Maryland Route 246 and as such, Cherry Cove stands in a position of particular interest in the safety, good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits specifically along the Maryland Route 246/Maryland Route 5 intersection.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd5l724d19>



Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation

April 24, 2020

Page 2

STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Norris
President and CEO



Parraid, LLC
44150 Smartronix Way, Suite 100
Hollywood, MD 20636

PH: 301-690-0690
FAX: 301-690-0095

April 24, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Parris, Executive Vice President and Co-Owner
Parraid, LLC

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



April 22, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *NID 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by the year 2040, producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that " ... California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Misty Kendall", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Misty Kendall



April 30, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:


I write to offer AAA Mid-Atlantic's support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."

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I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase traffic safety and reduce congestion in rural Southern Maryland.


Ragina C. Ali
Public & Government Affairs Manager
AAA Mid-Atlantic, Maryland

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

April 23, 2020

St. Mary's County Government
Chesapeake Building
P.O. Box 653
41770 Baldrige Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Commissioners of St. Mary's County:

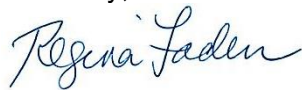
The Board of Directors of the County's official tourism and destination development organization, Visit St. Mary's MD, Inc. (Visit St. Mary's MD) strongly supports your efforts to address the sometimes crippling traffic problems at the Great Mills and Maryland Route 5 intersection. We believe redesigning this intersection will greatly improve visitors' experience, particularly to the southern portion of the County.

As is evident at morning and evening rush hour, the intersection at Great Mills and MD Route 5 is overwhelmed by thousands of vehicles. The two sets of traffic lights create a bottle neck that can cause travel delays of 30 to 90 minutes. Visitors come to St. Mary's County to have a relaxing vacation in the country. Instead, at certain times of day they experience unexpected and unwelcome traffic. This is hardly conducive to building our tourism industry.

Therefore, we are deeply grateful for your leadership in seeking a solution that benefits the entire County. Improving the travel conditions in this one area will greatly enhance the visitors experience and help make St. Mary's County a destination of choice.

On behalf of the Board members of Visit St. Mary's MD, thank you for your work on behalf of the professionals and businesses of the tourism industry in St. Mary's County.

Sincerely,



Regina Faden, Chair

Board of Directors:
Kim Aus
Nancy Easterling
Rich Fleming
Jim Grube
Chris Kaselemis
Phil Langley



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

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I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Smith", is written over the typed name and title.

J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Ben O. Latigo, PhD.

Interim Executive Director and Chief Academic Office

¹<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

ST MARY'S COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR

BUSINESS & FINANCE

47645 College Drive

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

www.stmctil.edu

TEL: 240-895-4413

FAX: 240-895-4957

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Regards,



Paul A. Pusecker III
Vice President for Business and CFO

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT
MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Historic St. Mary's City Commission (HSMCC), I write to offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

Historic St. Mary's City, a museum operated by the HSMCC, is an anchor for heritage tourism in the southern portion of St. Mary's County. As such, we are excited that the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills will generate higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5. Waiting in traffic is not the experience we desire for tourists and the new project will relieve pressure on this intersection.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

P.O. BOX 39, ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND 20686

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity and improve the tourist experience in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina Faden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Regina Faden, Ph.D.
Executive Director